

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 165556

53

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 IGA-02 OMB-01 /139 R

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APPROVED BY S/S - MR. GAMMON

P - E.L. PECK

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R 211406Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165556

TAGS: PFOR, US, SO, ET

SUBJECT:US-SOMALI RELATIONS

E.O. 11652 GDS

1. UNDER SECRETARY PORTER RECEIVED SOMALI AMB. ADDOU ON AUG 17 AT LATTER'S REQUEST. IN GREETING ADDOU, UNDER SECY SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF OUTSTANDING EFFORTS AMBASSADOR WAS MAKING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN SOMALIA AND US. WE RECIPROCATED AMBASSADOR'S DESIRES FOR BETTER RELATIONS. UNDER SECY ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HIGH CONSIDERATION WHICH PRESIDENT SIAD HAD ALWAYS ACCORDED AMB. LOORAM, WHO, UNDER SECY ADDED, HAD WORKED DILIGENTLY FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS.

2. ADDOU COMMENTED THAT TWO COUNTRIES HAD COME LONG WAY SINCE DARK DAYS OF 1969-70. EARLIER GSDR FEELING OF MIS-TRUST TOWARDS USG HAD GIVEN WAY TO RELATIONSHIP OF GREATER CONFIDENCE AND UNDERSTANDING, AS EVIDENCED BY PRESIDENT SIAD'S FRANK AND FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS WITH LOORAM. INDEED

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PAGE 02 STATE 165556

AMBASSADOR WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OCCASION TO EXPRESS HIS

GOVT'S THANKS FOR OUR CONVEYING TO EMPEROR AND IEG OFFICIALS, WELL AS SECGEN OF OAU, SOMALIA'S GRAVE CONCERN RE MOUNTING TENSIONS IN BORDER AREA AND FOR URGING RESTRAINT BY ETHIOPIANS. GSDR REGARDED THIS AS VERY FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL GESTURE.

3. UNDER SECY STATED THAT USG HAD SAME DESIRE AS GSDR FOR FRIENDLY, PEACEFUL RELATIONS IN HORN. WHILE WE DESIROUS OF BEING AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA, WE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO BECOME TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY AN AFRICAN ISSUE. IN THIS CONNECTION WE PLEASED THAT OAU AND ITS GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE WERE ACTIVELY WORKING ON PROBLEM AND HOPED THAT THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS TENSIONS WOULD BE RELIEVED AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION FOUND.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY BY UNDER SECY AS TO CURRENT DEGREE OF TENSION, AMBASSADOR REPORTED THAT SITUATION WAS MUCH IMPROVED IN PAST 2-3 WEEKS AND CHANCE OF HOSTILITIES BREAKING OUT BETWEEN TWO NEIGHBORING STATES NOW GREATLY REDUCED.

5. ADDOU MENTIONED BRIEFLY GSDR HOPE FOR RESUMPTION OF US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. UNDER SECY SAID HE BELIEVED AMBASSADOR ALREADY AWARE OF EXISTING LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS, BUT DEPT WAS STUDYING VARIOUS WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPROVING RELATIONS FURTHER. STILL TOO EARLY, HOWEVER, TO PREDICT FINAL OUTCOME. IT WAS EVIDENT, UNDER SECY ADDED, THAT PRESIDENT SIAD HAD ALREADY MADE GREAT ADVANCES IN FIELD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN INSTILLING IN SOMALI PEOPLE A SPIRIT OF SELF-HELP AND SELF-RELIANCE.

6. ADDOU SAID HE KNEW OF UNDER SECY'S LONG ASSOCIATION WITH AND DEEP INTEREST IN AFRICA, AND GSDR WOULD BE MOST PLEASED TO HAVE HIM VISIT SOMALIA. UNDER SECY REPLIED THAT SHOULD OPPORTUNITY EVER ARISE TO VISIT THAT PART OF WORLD HE WOULD PLAN STOP IN SOMALIA. ROGERS

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